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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00
EA-10 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
HA-08 L-03 PM-09 PA-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 /100 W

-----264453 172054Z /73

O 171953Z MAR 83
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5130
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION USUN NY

Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

Release ☒ Excise ☐ Deny ☐

Declassify: In Part ☐ In Full ☒

Exemption(s) ☐

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PINS, CI
SUBJECT: TWO IRISH PRIESTS EXPELLED BY GOC; AUSTRALIAN PRIEST
BEING SOUGHT

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 1444; (B) SANTIAGO 1475

1. (U) TWO IRISH PRIESTS EXPELLED TO BUENOS AIRES: DESPITE
AN OFFICIAL GOC ORDER GIVING THE THREE PRIESTS UNTIL MARCH 19
TO LEAVE CHILE, CIVILIAN POLICE ESCORTED, ON MARCH 16, THE TWO
IRISH PRIESTS, FORDE AND MACGUILLICUDY, TO A LAN-CHILE FLIGHT
TO BUENOS AIRES. (THE AUSTRALIAN PRIEST, MACMAHON, COULD NOT
BE FOUND BY POLICE BUT IS PRESUMABLY BEING SOUGHT.)

2. (U) GOC ACCUSATIONS: ALTHOUGH CHURCH OFFICIALS CONTINUED
COMPLAINTS THAT GOC AUTHORITIES HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC IN THEIR
CHARGES, POLICE SOURCES LEAKED TO THE PRESS INFORMATION ABOUT
ACTS BY THE THREE WHICH LED TO THE ORDERS FOR THEIR EXPULSION:

--MACMAHON IS LISTED IN CARABINERO RECORDS AS HAVING BEEN
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ARRESTED TWICE IN 1982: ON APRIL 1 FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN
A STREET DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO; AND ON
SEPTEMBER 30 FOR TAKING PART IN A "HUNGER MARCH".

--ALL THREE WERE CITED FOR THEIR PART IN A RELIGIOUS
SERVICE PROTESTING HUNGER AND REPRESSION ON DECEMBER 21,

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1982, AND MACGUILLICUDY WAS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD THE PARISHIONERS THAT THEY "SHOULD FIGHT TO RESIST ARREST".

--MACGUILLICUDY WAS ALSO CITED FOR PASSING OUT PAMPHLETS OF POLITICAL SONGS PRODUCED BY THE COORDINATING BOARD FOR POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS IN PUDAHUEL. (COMMENT: MOST OF THE COORDINATING BOARDS (COORDINADORS) IN CHILE ARE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED.)

-- THE THREE WERE ALSO ALLEGEDLY OBSERVED PARTICIPATING ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN PROTEST MARCHES AND MAKING SUBVERSIVE STATEMENTS IN FRONT OF THEIR CHURCHES IN RECENT MONTHS.

3. (C) CHURCH REACTION: IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CARDINAL, THE VICAR OF THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, MONSIGNOR JUAN DE CASTRO, "CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE CHARGES" AGAINST THE THREE PRIESTS AND SAID THAT THE "GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT PASTORAL WORK IS AND THEREFORE JUDGE IT AS POLITICAL". HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE "CHURCH CONTINUES BEING HARASSED" AND THAT IT DID "NOT DESERVE THIS TREATMENT". LATE ON MARCH 16, DE CASTRO FILED A RECURSO DE AMPARO (HABEAS CORPUS) ON BEHALF OF THE TWO EXPELLED BEFORE THE SANTIAGO COURT OF APPEALS. SEVERAL OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCH GROUPS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS PROTESTING THE EXPULSION AND SOME HAVE COMMUNICATED THEIR COMPLAINTS TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. THE PAPAL NUNCIO, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLICLY LAMENTED THE EXPULSIONS IN MUCH VAGUER AND MORE GENERAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH HE DID PROMISE A FULLER STATEMENT AFTER HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH GOC AUTHORITIES ON MARCH 17. THE NUNCIO IS KNOWN TO BE DISMAYED AT THE OPEN POLITICAL ACTIVISM OF SOME PRIESTS IN SANTIAGO WHOM HE CONSIDERS TO BE TRANSGRESSING PAPAL GUIDELINES. HE TOLD A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE RECENTLY THAT WHILE ONLY A SMALL SECTOR OF THE CHURCH IS POLITICALLY ACTIVE, MANY FOREIGN PRIESTS ARE ATTRACTED TO CHILE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO JOIN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

4. (C) COMMENT: APPARENTLY EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES TO CONTAIN THE CHURCH-STATE CONFRONTATION HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE FORCED EXPULSION OF THE TWO PRIESTS CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION. THEBERGE

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